

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

"Entered as second-class matter January 16, 1915, at the post office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. I—No. 11

FEBRUARY 20, 1915

5 Cents a Copy



Published by the Polish National Council of America

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Our Correspondence

Editor "Free Poland,"
984 Milwaukee avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Sir:

I am sending you under separate cover the Congressional Record for yesterday containing the debate on the Immigration bill to pass over the President's veto.

You will notice my speech on the page indicated. You are at liberty to give it space in your paper if your so desire.

A full report of the hearing before the President is also in the Record.

Sincerely yours,

THOS. GALLAGHER.

* * *

Mr. F. F. J. Medwecki, chairman "Free Poland,"
984 Milwaukee avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you for your interest in my letters in the Daily News, and the copies of "Free Poland" which were sent to me in care of the News.

I will try to make a story on the subject as soon as my schedule will permit.

Again thanking you, I am,

Yours very truly,

FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

* * *

Editor "Free Poland,"

My dear Sir:

I wrote the enclosed—on request—for a well known weekly. They say it is "partisan"—why I can't imagine. If you care to print it in "Free Poland," as the attitude of the American who found Poland a "Knight among Nations," you are very welcome to it. But, if you do print it, kindly send me to Westwood, New Jersey, several copies of your issue containing it. As perhaps you are aware, I am myself a member of the American-Polish Relief Committee here in New York. With congratulations on your fine little periodical, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

LOUIS E. VAN NORMAN,

Westwood, New Jersey.

A Letter from Australia

Sir:—

A short time ago I had the pleasure of receiving from a Polish friend in America two numbers of your interesting magazine—"Free Poland."

When a boy of sixteen I read that beautiful old romance, "Thaddeus of Warsaw".

Since then by historical studies and readings I have had an increasing interest in Poland and its highly intellectual people.

"There's a page in history

On which tears of blood were wept",—

that dark page which describes the brutal and heartless dismemberment of Poland by Austria, Germany and Russia. If Russia, at the end of the present terrible war, fulfills her solemn promise, Poland will become a self-governing nation—one of the brightest stars in the European constellation of states. If it were not that the Allies, as well as Russia, had agreed to act in unison during the final settlements at the close of the war, I would have some doubts as to Russia granting political independence to Poland.

On the wall of the future the handwriting is already glowing which decrees the downfall of Austria and Germany. There is no doubt in my mind that out of the ashes of injustice, cruelty and oppression Poland will arise and become a splendid nation. A country which can produce such men as Kosciuszko, Copernicus, Mickiewicz, Chopin and many other great souls is sure to attain the van of European civilization.

From what I know of the generosity and kindness of the American people I feel certain that by the wide-spread circulation of your informative magazine and through other agencies which your committee may establish, you and your associates will be able to obtain a great amount of assistance for the unfortunate people of Poland. Americans, be sure, have not forgotten the priceless assistance received from Polish heroes during their struggle for independence. Of course, Poles in America and their descendants are sure to arise to the occasion. So that with their help and that of the Americans you are sure to be able to gladden the hearts of your people in the fatherland.

We Australians are watching with great interest the progress of the war. Many Australians, like myself, are deeply concerned about the success or otherwise of the Russian armies in Poland and Galicia. We know, of course that if Russia succeeds against Germany, the Allies in Western Europe will overcome the enemy, and then Poland's prosperous future is assured.

Those of us here in Australia who have read history are constantly reminded of Poland by the fact that our highest mountain is named Kosciuszko.

Please accept from myself and friends in Australia our best wishes for the success of your magazine and of the efforts that you are making for the amelioration of the sad condition of the poor and oppressed in Poland.

W. FREDERICK BROWN.

Australia, Jan. 2, 1915.



Europe's Greatest Unsolved Problem—The Pole

By LOUIS E. VAN NORMAN



UNSETTLED questions, it has been said, have no mercy on the peace of nations. No more have they—it might be added—on the peace of continents or political systems. Settlement, furthermore, is always properly a definitive process. It is the genuine article, and refuses any kinship with—indeed, any recognition of—the spurious “poor relations” known as “compromise,” “modus vivendi,” and “working agreement.” It would, finally, be but repeating a truism to insist that no large question, involving the well-being of masses of the earth's population and the preservation or destruction of a national type and national language and traditions, can never be settled, in this true sense of the word, except on the basis of right ethical relations between peoples, individuals and those administering committees which men call governments. The dictates of personal, or even national ambition, or “political expediency” will never settle a question of a magnitude sufficient to claim even a paragraph on the pages of the discriminating historian.

If, to the busy hurrying reader, the foregoing seems too much like the moralizing which our hasty American thinking has made us regard with impatience, the writer begs indulgence for it as a necessary preliminary to a consideration of the eternal Polish question in a new, or comparatively unfamiliar light.

But few peoples in history have had a more dramatic, sad life story than the Poles—and survived. Certainly none that survive have so enlisted the poignant appeal of literature, oratory and philanthropy. The woes of poor Poland have been told in the dispassionate pages of the historian, in the glowing tribute of the orator and in the frenzied trope of the journalist and the poet. The wars of a century have surged over her, in the interests of other and hostile nations and she has ever paid the price. Her idealistic sons have been found fighting in the ranks of oppressed peoples all over the globe. And the melancholy fate of the Scottish clans has been theirs. They always went forth to battle and they always fell.

The Great War, as we have come to call the struggle now convulsing Europe, has again thrust them into the furnace of affliction and desolation. Poland is the “eastern theater of war,” shot, fired and laid waste by Teuton and Muscovite alike. A careful British estimate says that, since the war began, more than 500 Polish cities, towns and villages, in all parts of the former commonwealth, have been laid in ruins. The Poles have bled, starved and died as heroically as the Belgians. But they have been denied that supreme satisfaction, that patriotic glory, of all fighting side by side in the same last sacrifice for the fatherland. The Belgians were permitted to fight and fall as one consecrated unit for their soil and their homes. The unfortunate Poles have been forced by the bitterness of their national fate, to carry on, as it were, a civil war. Poles have been fighting Poles, soldiers in the armies of

the Czar standing up in battle against their brother nationals in the hosts of the Germanic Kaisers. The agony of the Poles has indeed touched the great human heart.

It is not the sufferings of the Poles, however, nor the injustices that have been done them that will bring about a settlement of the Polish question, that ever present ghost at every European council.

In reply to a commiserating remark that poor Ireland needed Home Rule, the late Parnell is said to have rejoined, in one of his characteristic flashes, “We don't need Irish Home Rule half as much as England needs it for her own sake.” It would be good statesmanship—John Redmond is credited with saying—for England to pay Ireland to take Home Rule, so that the mother country might be free of the bugbear. Many European statesmen now realize that it would pay the Great Powers—particularly Germany, Austria and Russia—not only to quickly and freely grant Poland some sort of reintegrated autonomy, but to accompany this with a bonus as a grateful recognition of what they would gain by being free of the eternal Polish question.

It is impossible to kill a people that has the will to live. This is the essence of the Polish question. Several years ago the writer said in a book on Poland:

“The Polish question is the political and economic problem presented by the opposition of two apparently irreconcilable facts. Three of the great powers of Europe believe it necessary for their national existence as world states to keep in subjection, without national rights, twenty-five millions of a highly sensitive, highly cultured, patriotic race, which refuses to be assimilated, and which is increasing more rapidly than the dominant nations. The problem concerns all Europe. It is of vital importance to Russia, Germany and Austria.”

The legal and historical basis of the relation of the Poles to the Austrian, Prussian and Russian states is to be found in the provisions of the famous treaty of Vienna, signed at the Austrian capital by the representatives of combined Europe on June 9, 1815. This was to constitute the guarantee of treaties already separately concluded between Russia and Prussia and Russia and Austria. The article which sets forth definitively the relations which are expected to exist between the “overlord” states and the Poles, contains these words: “The Poles that are subjects respectively of Russia, Austria and Prussia shall obtain a representation and national institutions.” Later on in the agreement, reference is made to the determination of the powers that the Poles “shall obtain institutions that shall insure the preservation of their nationality.”

It was on these terms only that the Congress of Vienna confirmed the Polish lands to the three partitioning powers. On this basis alone the Poles became Austrian, Prussian and Russian citizens.

For a century the Treaty of Vienna has been the rec-

ognized political law of Europe. It is true that, during that time, many of its provisions have undergone alteration and modification—but only by general consent as unworkable because of the advent of unexpected circumstances. The treaty, in its general provisions, has been regarded as binding on all the signatories.

Even the most ardent apologist for the three partitioning powers will not claim that they followed out the letter—to say nothing of the spirit—of the Vienna compact—with the possible exception of Austria. The Hapsburg monarchy has indeed earned the gratitude of the Poles, not for what she has done but for what she has refrained from doing. She has granted them autonomy. They have their language, their provincial diet, their newspapers and their church. But, thanks to the general backward condition of things economic in Austria, business is never good in Galicia. Everything is taxed to the breaking point. Nevertheless, generally speaking, the Austrian Pole is fairly contented and almost always loyal to the person of the Hapsburg Kaiser.

Much has been written of the crude brutalities of the Russian persecutions of the Poles and of the obstinate, systematic, clumsy—and ineffective—harrying of the process of Germanization. From a personal, first hand knowledge, the writer is able to assert that the accounts have not overstated the realities. In neither of these two empires—Germany or Russia—have the Poles been permitted to “obtain institutions that shall insure the preservation of their nationality.” In both, the unfortunate oppressed people has been subjected to the most cruel and stupid process of denationalization, that process which mistakes a dull uniformity for unity. And the impartial student of history will judge the German more severely than the Russian in this, because, although the Poles have twice taken up arms against Muscovites domination, they have never revolted against Prussia. On the contrary, they have shed their blood freely in many of Prussia’s wars.

All this sort of oppression, persecution and attempted denationalization is, of course, not new. It has been tried many times before on subject peoples, and has succeeded. The Poles, however, have obstinately declined to die. Despite the uncouth barbarities of the Russian and the most expensive, elaborate schemes of the Prussian to keep them back, the Poles continue to increase and advance.

Injustice to the Poles and failure to live up to the agreements of the Treaty of Vienna dealing with their government has adversely affected the national aims and complicated the national problems of all three of the partitioning powers, and, by thus rendering complex the tasks of these powers, has added perplexing factors to every general European problem of a half century or more. No prescription has as yet been made—nor is any likely to be—for making an Austrian, a German or a Russian out of a Pole. The efforts of the Czar and the two Kaisers in this direction have been productive of nothing but trouble for themselves and exasperation and puzzlement for Europe at large.

It will not help any toward the settlement of this knotty question to dwell upon the faults of the Poles and the defects of their national character. The Poles themselves freely admit their political errors. They do not dissent from the statement, made by one historian, that Poland is the “only example in history of a state which deliberately committed political suicide for the sake of absolute individual liberty.” They do not deny the “riotous excess of their individualism.” But they do insist that they never committed any crimes against their neighbors,

that they have learned a great deal since the days of the overbearing *szlachta* (nobility) and the *liberum veto*, and that their innate love for democracy makes them particularly well fitted for survival in an age when Democracy is the shibboleth of the social and economic as well as the political world. Moreover, they positively refuse to accept national death to please their tormentors.

Briefly put, then, the unsolved, ever pressing Polish problem has been the chief stumbling block in the path of the two vast racial political programs of modern Europe, Pan-Germanism and Pan-Slavism. It has, moreover, made both the domestic and foreign policies of the three empires much more difficult of execution and it has thrust a disturbing factor into the complexities of every continental problem.

The Dual Monarchy has always desired nothing so much as the maintenance of the status quo in central Europe. While the Austrian Pole is in the main contented and loyal, he is, so far as assimilation is concerned, as irreconcilable as his brethren in Prussia and Russia. He and his compatriots are just as distinct a national unit in Austria, just as much absorbed in their own problems as any separate nation could possibly be. In that respect they are of course a drag on the Austro-Hungarian chariot.

The four millions of Poles, who owe allegiance to the German Kaiser are a “danger to the state,” because they are the advance guard of the Slavonic race which has been, since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, at all points and in every conceivable respect not only different from but hostile to the Teutons. No scheme of Prussification, either by land laws or language regulations, has prevented the Poles from increasing faster than the Germans and from harboring a spirit of hostility based on the resentment that always arises from injustice.

The horrors and ineffective brutalities of the Russification process in Poland are an old story. The Russian course toward the Poles has probably been the most lacking in statesmanship and political insight. There is much in the kinship of race which would have made the Poles an invaluable aid to Russia and a factor in her security and advancement, had to Russian ruling class only possessed the penetration to perceive what was already patent to the rest of the world. The finely phrased promises of the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaevitch, commander-in-chief of the Czar’s armies, at the beginning of the war, that Russia intended to reunite all of the former commonwealth of Poland and give it autonomy, raised many hopes in Polish breasts. The autocracy of Petrograd has been known to make promises before. This one, however, has apparently been underwritten by the British and French allies of the Czar. Therefore, the Poles are even daring to do a little, just a little, air castle building. At any rate, the Russian promise evinces an aroused understanding on the part of the Muscovites themselves.


Many thinkers, statesmen, publicists and dreamers have permitted themselves to sketch out the probable terms of peace which are to bring the great war to an end. They paint an alluring picture of the rejuvenated Europe that is to be, when most of the injustices of history, the mistakes and iniquities of false political systems, have been rectified, and all the peoples, great and small, of the mother of continents, shall finally come into their own. Without exception, these assume a reconstituted Poland as one of the first features of the new Europe that is to follow upon the present titanic struggle.

LOUIS E. VAN NORMAN,
Westwood, New Jersey.

The Jewish Problem in Poland

By JOSEPH S. DRZEWIECKI

INTRODUCTION

HE American press published some few weeks ago a letter of George Brandes on the Polish question. Mr. Brandes described in his letter such persecutions and atrocities committed on Jews in Poland, that all those who are familiar with the relations between the Poles and the Jews were from the beginning aware of the fact that Mr. Brandes was purposely deceived in a most infamous way. The only guilt of Mr. Brandes, if any, is the fact that he believed the base calumniator. Not only the Polish interests, but the interests of the Jews themselves require an answer to Mr. Brandes' letter, and American public opinion which may be misled by Mr. Brandes' statement should be enlightened on this subject.

In spite of the fact that I prepared my answer to Mr. Brandes at once upon receipt of a copy of his letter, I intentionally delayed its publication. There is a theory in criminology to the effect that a criminal always returns to the place of crime, that there is an invisible power which drags him there. I was sure that the moral criminal who committed the crime of calumny against Poland and the Poles would undoubtedly be tempted to use his nefarious weapon once more. My expectations soon proved to be right. The newspapers published an article written by a certain Mr. Levin who happened to be the informant of Mr. Brandes. While talking about the persecution of the Jews, Mr. Levin tells us what awful things happened after the Germans had occupied Kalisz and how the Poles betrayed the innocent Jews to the Russian army after the Russians reoccupied the town. The details related by Mr. Levin convey the idea that Mr. Levin was an eye witness to all which he is telling yet this worthy gentleman has forgotten that Russians have as yet not retaken Kalisz and, therefore, all he wrote about—the atrocities committed, etc., must necessarily be untrue. How could the Poles have betrayed the Jews to Russian authorities which did not exist in Kalisz?

We are in the possession of statements from eye witnesses of the massacre in Kalisz and according to them the German army without any provocation at all bombarded the city. The German reports speak of direct provocations by the Russian officials and not by the Poles. The statements of eye witnesses furthermore tell of Poles and Jews helping each other in these days of terror, but the most important detail is that the Russians as yet have not retaken Kalisz from the Germans. For these reasons I cannot help calling Mr. Levin's accusations infamous insinuations.

I do not feel that it is necessary to deal with the rest of his arguments—whom I once caught in a lie, I do not trust again. With his article Mr. Levin disgraces the cause he is serving.

The idea the Jews always championed is the idea of justice and fair play, and calumny, baseness and lies are certainly poor weapons to use in its defense.

Mr. Levin does not seem to have realized as yet that in this free United States one can freely express his opinions, provided he is honest and the public opinion once misled and imposed upon will undoubtedly avenge itself sooner or later. Mr. Levin will probably soon discover

that it will not pay him to begin his career of publicity with deliberate falsehood and calumny.

* * *

FACTS.

Ever since the beginning of the European war, we grew accustomed to some startling surprises, which in normal times we would consider well nigh impossible. The Anglo-Russian alliance and the Pronunciamento of the Russian general-in-chief to the Poles are the most prominent illustrations of these surprises.

One of the biggest surprises, however, or at least, the most painful one, is the newly arisen misunderstanding between the Poles and the Jews. In the beginning of the war there seemed to be no doubt as to the fact that the people of this oppressed and persecuted nation, even finding themselves in opposite camps, would keenly feel their common misfortune of slavery. It seems that wherever in the world the Poles and the Jews meet, they stand by each other for the sake of their common ideal.

In this connection, however, a fatal discord resounded coming from one of the most illustrious men of our day, George Brandes. His complaint gives voice to an intense pain of the man who cannot understand and who instinctively feels that the facts of which he is complaining cannot possibly exist. Brandes does not curse anybody—what he wants is the solution of a question which is puzzling to him, and he has a right to demand an explanation.

Slavery enables some nations and lowers others; oppressed nations gave the world some of its most ideal men and some of its loftiest ideas. At the same time, these very nations produced types exemplifying the worst decay and the greatest degrading of mankind. This is a law of nature, a dire necessity to which Poles as well as Jews are subject.

George Brandes is one of the most noble types the Jewish race has ever produced and yet he believes statements of fact and theories brought forward by individuals who were the worst exponents of the Jewish race. Brandes is basing his theories on so-called facts, which he believes and from which he is making his logical deductions. It suffices to prove that his facts are untrue, that they are nothing else than insinuations of the most ignominious kind, and then the whole structure of the accusation will crumble.

Let us first examine the question of the election to the Duma in 1912. The candidate of the Nationalistic Party was Roman Dmowski. The Polish Jews and the Polish Liberal Party supported the candidacy of Kucharzewski, which was most violently opposed by the Nationalistic Party. The latter candidate was subjected at a pre-election meeting in the business men's club in Warsaw to a most cruel questioning as to his political creed. In all three parts of annexed Poland, the crucial characteristic of Polish politics is the solidarity of the Polish parliament members. A Polish member of the parliament regardless of his personal political affiliations and sympathies must submit to the majority and cast his vote the way the majority has decided. The vote represents the national opinion as a unit. Kucharzewski pledged himself to obey that rule and he could not do otherwise being a Pole. The

Jews, however, fearing that the majority of Polish members of the Duma would be affiliated with the Nationalistic Party and that Kucharzewski would have to submit to the majority, dropped him as a candidate and elected Jagiello, a socialist, who did not enter the club of Polish Duma members and has subordinated the interests of his nation to those of the Socialistic Party, of which he is a member. Thus he became a traitor to the cause of his nation.

The second argument brought forward by Brandes is in such striking contradiction of what Brandes himself has said in the introduction to his article that I dare to surmise that Brandes has copied verbatim the information which was supplied to him. Mr. Brandes states that—"Leading men in Russian Poland as a matter of fact through the whole century have fought against the Jews, although secretly." On what is that accusation based, and where is any evidence to corroborate it? Furthermore, in the very same article, Mr. Brandes writes as follows: "The great men of Poland check the development of the hatred of the Jews which is always lurking in the masses." This statement Mr. Brandes supports by a series of facts. Why does Mr. Brandes, without using any criticism at all, repeat statements supplied to him, and why does he accuse us of things which he considers untrue?

The co-operative movement began in Russian Poland about twelve years ago. It began at a much earlier date in Prussian Poland, where it bore the best of results. From there it passed into Russian Poland. Why was this movement not called an anti-Semitic one for ten years? Why isn't it called anti-Semitic in France, England, Austrian Poland or Prussian Poland? Neither Mr. Brandes nor anybody else in the world can in good faith consider the co-operative movement as a wrong one. On the contrary, it is universally considered a very progressive one. Only in Russian Poland, after an existence of over ten years, this movement has been called an anti-Semitic propaganda; the healthiest symptom of social life has been termed barbarism. Even if the small business men will most keenly feel the effects of the movement; even if the majority of the small business men are Jews who will have to look for other means of livelihood, I ask Mr. Brandes and all honest Jews whether the Poles should forego the progress in order not to harm the small Jewish business man, and if Mr. Brandes would honestly answer this question, he would not fail to say that Mr. Swietochowski never abandoned the championship of progress—that he remained a staunch advocate of the oppressed ones and that he, to the very end, most courageously upheld the theory of equal rights and social evolution of the Jews. Not Mr. Swietochowski betrayed the cause of progress, but those who under the disguise of progressive men started on a reactionary propaganda.

It is a downright lie that the paper called "Dwa Grosze" (Two Pennies), incited to massacre. It is a downright lie that "Polish undergraduates" killed an old Jew in Sliska Street. The perpetrators of this crime were the scum of the city who did not care about the victim's creed or race. There is no doubt that more than one Jew and more than one Christian was killed in Poland, but no one should call such acts outbreaks of anti-Semitic propaganda. Furthermore, it is a downright lie that in Wielun Polish peasants soaked the house of a Jew with oil and, having set fire to it, burned a Jewish family. A report to that effect was published in the papers, but even the Jewish papers of Warsaw retracted the news, which proved to be nothing but a reporter's bluff.

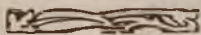
I, furthermore, take the liberty to suppose that Mr. Brandes has never read anything written by Niemojewski, whom by the way, he is taking seriously. Niemojewski was formerly considered a liberal minded man because of his attacks on the Catholic religion; since this has ceased in pay him, and the public has become tired of his anti-Catholic propaganda, he has begun to assail the Jews in the same vulgar and silly manner as he used to assail the Catholic church. That is why the person who furnished Mr. Brandes with information calls at one time Niemojewski a Liberal, and at another, a Nationalist.

As to the accusations of Mr. Brandes, I only mention those with which I am familiar—the others I do not mention at all, but I am taking the liberty to doubt them. I do not know whether Mr. Wladyslaw Mickiewicz was in Warsaw or not, or whether he held a meeting there; all I know is that he is not permitted to enter Russian territory at all, and the permission to attend the unveiling of a monument to his illustrious father was refused to him. If, however, he was in Warsaw and the Polish press did not mention his visit, it did so in order not to betray him to the Russian government and policy. He may have been there secretly for all I know.

Finally, Mr. Brandes describes the atrocities of the war. If only one-tenth of them were true, it would be frightful. Fortunately I found among his descriptions so many obviously exaggerated and fantastic stories that the entire description of Mr. Brandes seems like a fairy tale made to order, and a malicious fairy tale at that.

It is a downright lie that there was or is a telephone connection between Zamosc and Lemberg. Anyone who even superficially knows the conditions existing in Russian Poland must see at once that whoever supplied Mr. Brandes with those details has never lived in Poland and has no idea of the country. The report that Count Potocki was a spy is another fairy tale which could never be invented by a Pole or by a Polish Jew.

(To be continued)



Poland is Vast War Graveyard, Pictures

QUO VADIS AUTHOR

Henry Sienkiewicz, the famous Polish novelist and author of "Quo Vadis," is, like tens of thousands of his compatriots, a refugee, driven from home by the war. He is now in Vevey with the members of the committee for the relief of victims of the war in Poland, of which he is president and Ignacy Paderewski is vice-president. The latter will visit New York in connection with the Polish work.

No more appalling picture of death, destruction and

devastation has ever been drawn than that outlined by Sienkiewicz, who declares it is unique in history. He says:

"Poland has nothing to do with the war. She has been conquered and partitioned. She is not one of the belligerent nations—yet a million and a half of her sons are fighting fratricidal battles in the armies of three different warring states. Our country is made the cockpit of the battles of Europe and is devastated from end to end, three-

quarters of a million men bearing arms for Germany and Austria.

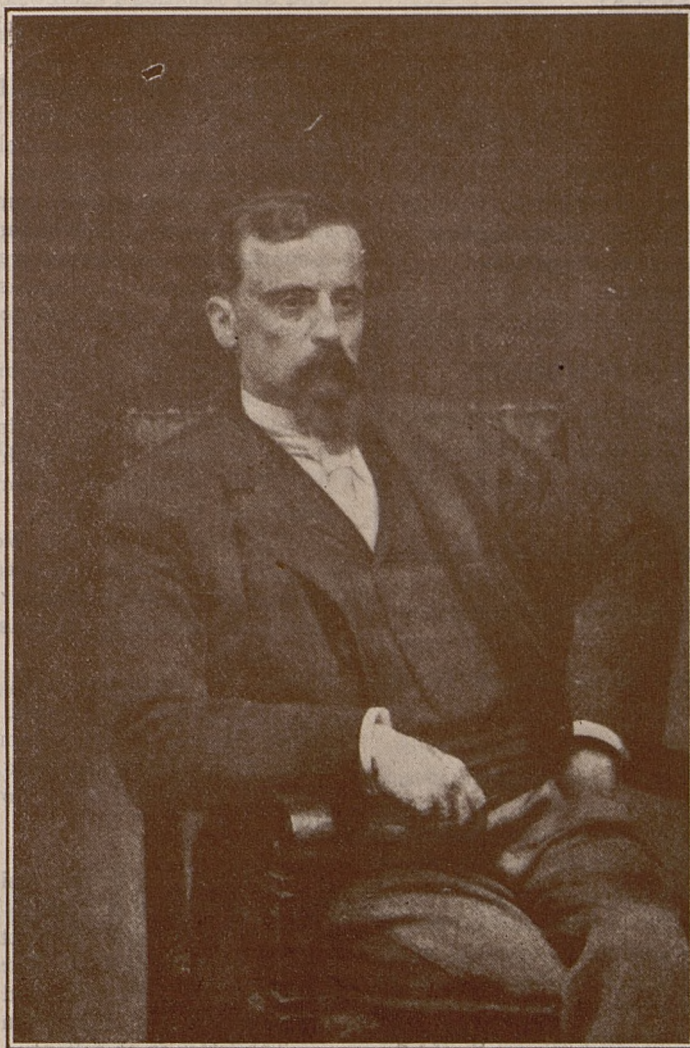
"Think what this means! When order for a charge is made hordes of soldiers rush on each other. When they get within striking distance and commence cutting one another down they find the language in which they are uttering their imprecations is their common, natal tongue. It frequently happens that when the Red Cross nurses go to collect the wounded they lift from a heap one man in a German uniform; another in an Austrian and a third in a Russian—but all three of them Poles.

"The misery is really very great in the kingdom. In

ruined, and every industry destroyed. Four hundred thousand workers have lost their means of livelihood.

"The state of affairs in Galicia is just as dreadful, too. The Russians commandeered 900,000 horses and 2,000,000 horned cattle and seized all the corn, leaving that once rich country as barren as a desert. More than 1,000,000 inhabitants sought refuge in other parts of Austria in sheer destitution.

"I was at my home in Oblegorek under the government of Kielce during the early part of the war working on a new novel. I had to interrupt it and leave all my books and documents. The last news I heard of my home



HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ

Poland alone there are 15,000 villages burned and thousands of chapels and churches damaged or destroyed. Nine out of Poland's ten provinces have been occupied by Germans who seized everything they found, even to peasants' chickens. The homeless villagers sought shelter in the forests, where women and children are now dying of cold and hunger by the thousands daily.

"In the whole 100,000 square kilometers of territory in the possession of German and Austrian troops not one grain of corn, not a scrap of meat nor a drop of milk remained for the civil population. The material losses are estimated at one billion rubles. Agriculture has been

was that trenches were being dug around it, even in the garden.

"Leaving my home, I made my way to Vienna, where it was reported that I had been arrested by the Austrians. This is not true. After some difficulty the Austrians accorded me a permit to come here to Switzerland.

"There has been a committee for the relief of Polish distress created in Berlin, of which the United States Ambassador is a member—but America can sell no more corn, and Russia would not sell it to the Berlin committee for fear it might be used to feed German troops. It is only to our committee established in neutral Switzerland that the Russians are likely to supply corn."

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

PUBLICATION AUTHORIZED BY
THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

Business Manager: STANISŁAW OSADA

Edited under the supervision of the Press Committee
of the Polish National Council:

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Subscription \$1.00 per year.

Single Copy 5 cents

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO:

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To Editors and Publishers

The Polish Question is a timely one throughout the world. The contents of this publication will furnish, we hope, adequate material for use at opportune moments.

A Review of Current Events

(A letter from the Chicago Press Bureau of the Polish National Council.)

We are glad to state that we have succeeded in concentrating the relief action in all the civilized world on behalf of Poland. It is a gigantic plan launched through a Polish general committee, which is headed by such men of note as Henryk Sienkiewicz and Ignatius Paderewski.

Through the agency of our press bureaus we have inspired numerous articles and editorials all over the world. We have before us, for example, J. Ellis Barker's article, which appeared in the "Nineteenth Century," a serious publication in England. The eminent author rightly contends that the solution of the Polish question is necessary to the maintenance of peace in Europe.

And another example of what attention the Polish question commands all over the world is one of the issues of the well known magazine in Italy, "Rivista di Roma," which in its entirety is devoted to discussing the Polish problem. The whole number of the magazine was edited under the auspices of "Comitato Italiano pro Polonia," an Italian committee headed by such notables as Alberto Lumbroso, senators, deputies, professors, publishers and others. About 60 writers, most eminent men of the kingdom, contribute sympathetic words in behalf of Poland.

We are hearing from Paris also. We have received a brochure entitled "La Proclamation du Generalissimo Russe et l'opinion française," which contains views of the French press regarding the question in Poland.

Here in America "Free Poland" is doing creditable work by presenting the truth about Poland and her people. As can be seen, we are trying to reach the press of the whole world, confident that the Polish question rests on historical grounds and is a wrong which must be righted.—S. O.

Polish General Relief Committee

The Central Relief Committee has received two telegrams from Switzerland announcing the concentration of the relief action in all civilized world on behalf of Poland.

At the head of the Committee are: Henryk Sienkiewicz and Ignatius Paderewski.

The telegrams read as follows:

First:

"In connection with the Polish organizations at home and eminent Poles residing abroad, a General Committee, to relieve war victims in Poland and to concentrate and develop material help in all civilized world, was formed at Lausanne Jan. 9, 1915, composed of 36 members representing all parts of Poland and also three delegates of your committee, whose election pray effectuate immediately.

"Considering the immensity of our national disaster and your cordial sentiment to our old mother country, we pray grant assistance, inform newspapers, telegraph agencies, philanthropic societies and especially the Rockefeller Institute. The above action is very desirable because the action of provisioning the Kingdom of Poland and Galicia should be carried out through our General Committee.

"Pray answer this communication immediately and name your three delegates.

"Address: Sienkiewicz, Vevey, Grandhotel.

"Henryk Sienkiewicz, pres. of General Committee; Ignatius Paderewski, vice-pres.; Anthony Osuchowski, president of the Executive Commission."

Second:

"Osada, 984 Milwaukee ave., Chicago, Ill.

Sienkiewicz, Paderewski and Osuchowski on behalf Polish General Relief Committee received yesterday at Bern, by President Helvetic Confederation, who kindly promised protection Swiss Government. Letter follows.

OSUCHOWSKI.

Complying with the desires of Sienkiewicz and Paderewski, the Polish Central Relief Committee elected as members to General Committee the Very Rev. Bishop P. Rhode, its president A. Karabasz, and its treasurer J. Smulski. All funds collected will be forwarded with utmost confidence to Switzerland.

The letter is as follows:

Vevey, February 10, '15.

Stanislaus Osada, 984 Milwaukee ave., Chicago.

Pray publish immediately list of members of our General Committee without omission by associated Press, Polish and American newspapers. That publication necessary for extolling national character of our Committee as staying over all partitions, frontiers and parties, solely having free access to all civilized countries and Polish provinces, therefore solely capable to organize and help whole Poland. In possession of your letter of twenty-six last. Accepted with hearty gratitude your announced contributions. Wenckowski has visited us but without receiving any kind of authorization. Pray always rely upon our different informations.

SIENKIEWICZ-OSUCHOWSKI.

Vevey, February 10, '15.

Polish Central Relief Committee,
984 Milwaukee ave., Chicago, Ill.

General Relief Committee of war victims, Poland, formed at Lausanne is definitely constituted as follows: In Switzerland:

President, Sienkiewicz; vice-president, Paderewski; president Executive Commission, Osuchowski; vice-presidents: Count Plater, Professor Kowalski; general secretary, Piltz; treasurer, Marconi; members—Professors Askenazy, Laskowski and Modzelewski.

In Paris:

Mickiewicz, Marie Sklodowska-Curie, Count Nicolas Potocki, Prince Poniatowski, Colonel Galenzowski, Baron Taube.

In Kingdom of Poland:

Bishop Ruszkiewicz, Prince Vlodimir Sztetwertynski, senior president Polish Landbank; Count Joseph Potocki, president Scientific Society; Count Ordinat Zamoyski, Baron Kronenberg, president Warsaw City Mortgagebank; Count Sobanski, Bergson, president Warsaw Jewish Community; Prince Lubomirski, president Warsaw Citizen Committee; Geisler, chairman Warsaw Protestant Community; Drzewiecki, president Engineer Society; Wojciechowski, president Co-operative Associations.

Kingdom of Galicia with Grand Duchy of Cracovia:

Bishop Prince Sapiecha, Count Tarnowski, president Academy of Sciences; Kostanecki, Rector Jagellonic University Cracovia; Prince Czartoryski, Steczkowski, director National Galician Bank; Rutkowski, president of City Leopal Reverend Londzin Deputy; Fruchtmann, representative Jewish Community.

Grand Duchy Posen:

Prince Ferdinand Radziwill, Chlapowski, Tromczynski, deputies; Reverend Adamski, president Co-operative Associations; Szuldrzynski, president Agricultural Society.

United States:

Bishop Rhode, Karabasz and Smulski.

Swiss National Bank is authorized to receive contributions.

SIENKIEWICZ-OSUCHOWSKI.

Polish Relief Day

"Polish Relief Day" was observed January 24th throughout the United States. The Poles of Chicago had asked permission to tag on January 23d and 24th. Mayor Harrison issued a proclamation asking the people of the city to give financial aid to Poland, the theater of German, Austrian and Russian war operations.

The proclamation read as follows:

"Among the sufferers from the war in Europe, destroying kingdoms and thousands of lives, there are none in more dire need than the people of Poland, now divided among the principal combatants, Germany, Russia and Austria. The flower of this nation is in the front ranks of the armies of these countries and their families left to suffer starvation and the kindred horrors of war. Thousands must die for want of food and shelter.

"Their plea for succor has come to the citizens of Chicago. The Polish National Alliance has arranged to conduct a tag day for their benefit on January 23d and 24th throughout the City of Chicago.

"I, Carter H. Harrison, mayor of Chicago, by virtue of authority given me by a resolution of the city council, call upon the citizens of this city to aid in procuring and swelling the fund for these worthy people, and I hereby appoint a committee of Chicago citizens to have charge of the collection of funds on those days."

Receipts of the day in Chicago alone amount to approximately \$25,000, a quarter of a million dollars having been collected in the entire United States, detailed reports to follow. All contributions are to be sent to the treasurer of the Polish Central Relief Committee, J. F. Smulski, Northwestern Trust and Savings Bank, 1201 Milwaukee avenue, Chicago.



On the Eastern Battlefield

By WILLIAM PURVIS



AN ounce of fact proverbially is worth a ton of theory; and if we would know what German "Kultur" is really like we may have the truth as it is spoken by Poland to set against the fiction of the Pan-German apologists. About a year ago an English lady, Miss Frances Delanoy Little, spent some months touring and painting in Eastern Europe; and she has embodied her experiences in a singularly illuminating volume called "Sketches in Poland."

Miss Little had special and intimate facilities for discovering the spirit of Poland; and, reading her book, which is published by Mr. Andrew Melrose and is full of delightful pictures and attractive writing, one can quite understand why public feeling in Poland is all on the side of Russia and against Germany and Austria on the issues of war.

Six hundred thousand Poles are fighting in the three

armies; some for Russia, some for Germany and some for Austria. But the vast majority of them, if they had their own way, would be in the Russian ranks.

This very significant, for the Poles as a people have little enough for which to be thankful to Russia. The Czardom of the past have sent some of the noblest of the Poles to Siberia; the Russian heel has pressed heavily upon the neck of Polish patriotism—more heavily, in fact, than the heel of Austria. Still, the Poles want Russia to win; not so much because she is Russia, be it said, but because Russia is on the side of England and France and against Germany. "If England only knew", the Poles have said to the passing English traveller, "we feel sure that Polish oppression would be abolished."

The Poles believe that Russia to-day is sincerely disposed to make amends; and they believe that France and England will strengthen this resolution. The victory of

the Allies, therefore, they think (as I imagine rightly) will mean a new Polish nation; the victory of Germany would mean more Kultur and still more; and they have had enough Kultur in the past century to last them a thousand years. Zabern and Posen are a long, long way apart, but Germany is the same for ever and ever, wherever she sets her iron foot.

Russia rules part of Poland; but her harshness is tempered by a slackness and the natural good nature of the common Russia.

Austria rules part of Poland: but she has been conciliatory to the Polish temper though the Poles suspect her motive. Germany rules part of Poland: and the story of her dominance is one long record of continually fiercer and more ruthless Prussianisation. Poland was to be made German whether she liked it or not: indeed the less she liked it the more German she was to be made. Hence a yearly more crushing and brutal and unscrupulous organization of Prussian "influence", a more cruel and black guardly spreading of German "culture."

The German abroad seems constitutionally incapable of understanding any people among whom he may be living, especially if he is in authority over that people; and were it not so tragic the tale of how Germany has tried to turn little Poles into big Germans would be comic in the extreme.

You cannot expect a race of upstart barbarians, who have no respect for the traditions or sentiments of a nation that war great before Prussia mattered at all in the world, to boggle at the destruction of more cathedrals and other priceless works of art. The real nature of the bully and the cannibal will out whether he be dressed in blue paint only or the uniform of the Prussian Guard; and in Poland it has done little else but "out." Therefore Germany and all that she stands for is hated by the gentle, kindly, imaginative folk of Poland. Russia, the Poles can forgive: indeed they have already forgiven. But the crimes of Germany, official and bedecked with ordinances and accompanied by hypocritical and patronisingly offensive oratory, Poland can never forgive for they are the crimes of a vulgar canaille towards a natural nobility.

It is characteristic of Prussia (and in particular of William II) that when the Kaiser visited German Poland a year or two ago he invited the local bigwigs to meet him, and thereupon delivered to them a speech on the shortcomings of the Polish nation! One smiles to read that some of the few Poles of any importance who accepted William's invitation had their clothes spoiled by irate Polish peasants, who threw ink at them as they passed to the reception.

Poland, as a whole, is a beautiful land; and, judged by all outward signs, German Poland is one of the most prosperous parts of the country. It has many of those well-cultivated fields which generally are taken to indicate a happy countryside.

Nature usually so responsive an interpreter of the moods and history of man, seemed here untouched by the bitter struggle, that Prussian and Pole were engaged him. What did it matter to her that a farm had been cruelly wrested from one and given to the other, or that the children who trotted over the fields in the morning to school crawled back bruised and beaten in the evening because they had prayed in their native tongue, having learned nothing at all day but two or three German words, of which they had not even been taught the meaning?

It is a criminal offense in German Poland to teach a child the Polish language—even to teach it to pray in

its own tongue. You must not address a letter in Polish. If you do it will be detained by the German postal authorities and sent by them to a translation.

Yet, every child in German Poland must go to German Governmental schools, staffed by German teachers—the child of prince and peasant alike—and there be crammed with German words which neither they nor their parents can understand. Only the worst kind of German teacher, will accept service under such conditions; and so unheard-of atrocities are committed on the little Polish children.

In 1903 at Pudlisni and elsewhere some children for refusing to obey a Bismarkian order to say morning prayers and catechism in German were beaten to death.

No wonder that Miss Little found in the faces of the educated Poles a curious expression of crushed pride, and melancholy just touched with undying hope, such as she has seen nowhere else on the faces of a people.

Six years ago the German authorities in Poland forbade the use of the Polish language in future "at public meetings even of purely literary or scientific societies". In the previous year a police order was issued forbidding any Pole "to build a house even on land with has been his for generations." The Law of Expropriation enables the German authorities to turn out any Polish landowner on the Government's own terms. Theoretically, all that is needed by a Pole to build a house with his own money on his own land is "permission" from his German governors.

But, whilst it allows the German authorities to deny that their confiscatory or suppressive operations are as arbitrary as they must seem to impartial outsiders, this permission is granted only to tufthunters and the worse kind of Pole.

The Polish peasant evades the law sometimes by living on his farm in a caravan, but even then if he puts in a stove with a chimney to it he is prosecuted. The only houses which are ever built—at least in the neighbourhood of A—are those put up by the Government for German settlers, and the only way in which a Pole can obtain a new house is by waiting until the German fails (which is not seldom), and gladly sells it to him. There were several neat little farmhouses in the village of B—, which people pointed out to me as we passed them and told me had lately changed hands in this way.

For the Government has already spent fifty millions of pounds—and in this year of 1913 is voted eleven millions more—for the "colonisation" of its Polish territories, that is, for the purchase on its own terms of Polish land, and the planting in of Germans to whom it offers extraordinary facilities. But fate, by an ironic yet perfectly logical device, has frustrated all their endeavours. For these "colonists", being for the most part men who for one reason or another have failed in their own neighbourhoods, succeed no better in conditions which are new to them.

Even the Polish soldiers in the German Army must deal only with German shopkeepers. "Soldiers are strictly forbidden to buy anything in a Polish shop, or to enter one, even if it belongs to their parents; and all the Government situations, such as those on the railway and in the Post Office, except the very lowest and most poorly paid, are given to Germans!"

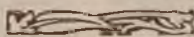
All this, be it understood, is part of a well-thought-out logical and cultural system, that has every advantage from the German point of view save one—it does not pan out according to the rules. If you prevent the Poles from working at anything else but ill-paid agricultural labour, and keep them ignorant, and deny them social and political

freedom, think the Germans (or used to think so), they will be too poor and too untutored to harbour a dangerous patriotism; if you plant true-blue Germans thickly among them the Royal blood of the Huns, and the workings of time, will change the native from a discontented and subtly rebellious person into a devout worshipper of the Two Willies. This is a ridiculous keynote of German policy everywhere; alter the externals and you will gradually modify the soul of the people they say.

The Germans fine and imprison Polish priests because they give the last sacrament to dying men outside their own parish. There is no Polish archbishop, because the German say he must be a German, and the Pope says that only a Pole shall be appointed. A Posen chemist was locked up for labelling his poison bottles in Polish as well as in German, although his customers were Polish and

did not know German. When the German authorities altered the names of many villages from Polish to German, they gave no notice to the villagers; but when the latter applied for railway tickets they were told curtly that no such village as that inquired for existed in Poland, and their confusion was made the subject of what passes for humour with the German official.

May this present war (whose bloodiest battles are being fought out on the fairest fields of Poland) mark a turning of the tables, and lead to the eventual reconstitution of the Kingdom of Poland, with Cracow—that most fascinating of little cities—and Warsaw and Posen as triple stars in the new crown. For in many ways the Poles are superior to either or their three rulers; and as a revived nation they should make notable contributions to the civilization of the twentieth century.



Poles Bear Brunt of Europe of Europe's War

Come—should the heavenly shock may life destroy,
And shut its flood gates with excess of joy!
Come but the day when Poland's fight is won—
And on my gravestone shine the morrow's sun.

For over 70 years the sun has shone on the gravestone of Thomas Campbell, who wrote so soulfully of Poland's great struggle for freedom, but her present plight is the most deplorable in her whole history.

The civilized world is profoundly shocked by the horrors inflicted on Belgium. Certainly no one will minimize the agony of her people in their days of grief and travail, but while we truly sympathize with Belgium and the Belgians, let us not fail to see the unhappy plight of Poland, which is even more pitiable than that of Belgium.

Both countries are overrun and devastated. Women and children are starving. Their relatives are torn and mangled. Millions are cutting each others' throats within their borders in a quarrel not their own.

The Belgian, however, is fighting a common foe. He has a country to die for if he dies, and to live for if he lives.

But the brave Polish soldier is fighting his own brother in another uniform. He is driven against his own race in what should be his own country.

The Prussian Pole and the Austrian Pole are forced by militarism to invade the country of the Russian Pole and devastate the land.

Add this horror of horrors to all the Belgian horrors and in some measure we can understand the terrible plight of the Polish race in this hour of agony. The mortality

list among the Polish soldiers is said to be the heaviest in the war. This is accounted for in the claim that they are sent foremost in the ranks if the invaders, and therefore bear the brunt of every onslaught. In any event they are fighting brother against brother and against their will.

The Pole will fight to the death for liberty. The history of Poland in an inspiration as far as heroic sacrifice is concerned. As well undertake to stop the earth in its course as to try to quench the desire for freedom in the heart of a Pole. Were he fighting his own fight he would be prepared for any fate, but his present situation is the most trying ordeal a race has ever endured.

This people, in spite of the terrible calamity that has overtaken them, are sustained by the fixed and firm hope that out of it all will come the reward of their long and faithful fight for freedom and the realization of their dream of ages for a reunited and integrated Poland. "Millions died—that Caesar might be great," and in this war of nations, millions have died but for what purpose is not yet apparent. Millions more will die, not to make a Caesar, but where so many die a purpose will develop, and in the first line of possibilities is an end of militarism, freedom of smaller states and independence of natural nations.

Even a small response from those who sympathize with unhappy Poland in her extremity will swell the relief fund to an extent that will prove to the world the true quality of American sympathy and bring to a distressed and devastated land some measure of comfort and relief.

GEO. S. SHEPHERD.



Poland

By DR. FRANK CRANE

If you have tears to shed for the miseries of the human race shed a few for unhappy Poland.

For months the armed hordes of twentieth century barbarism have added daily new pages of blood, of ruin and of devastation to the long book of "The Tragedy of Poland."

This wretched land has become the most enormous, the most sanguinary, and the most savage arena for the brutalities of European militarism. It has been a wild whirl of sack and pillage, assassination and destruction.

The Poles themselves have not the Belgian satisfaction of dying for their fatherland. Over a million of

them are scattered among the Austrian, German, and Russian armies, half a million in the Russian and Austrian forces each, and a hundred thousand among the German. Often the father on one side, his son on the other. A fratricidal orgy!

At Kalisch shots were fired at German soldiers. The inhabitants claim they were fired at each other by the German themselves, mistaking one another for the enemy. In vengeance for this the city was bombarded. Five hundred persons were killed by the shells. Another four hundred were massacred by the German soldiery. The city was pillaged. Among the murdered were the corpses of women and children. It was more horrible than Louvain.

Three-quarters of Polish territory is trampled and despoiled by the swaying, wrestling armies. Hundreds of villages have fallen in the way of the madmen and have been reduced to heaps by artillery fire. The armed beligerents, advancing and retreating, back and forth, have ploughed the devoted land with the red share of war, whose hell-seed crop is perennial hate.

Two vast human torrents have passed, leaving few living beings behind them, annihilating what they could not carry away, so as to leave no supplies for the enemy.

Beside the enormous losses properly due to war, besides those which might be attributed to strategic reasons, come the numerous outrages, robberies, and cruelties

perpetrated by the soldiers personally; destruction for destruction's sake.

Innumerable families are homeless. Hunger is everywhere. The railways are torn up, the bridges smashed. Factories are in cinders. Homes demolished. Red ruin everywhere.

There is no oil. The long winter nights are spent in darkness.

Their flocks and grain have gone to enrich the army commissary.

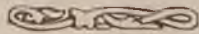
A whole people is assassinated by the criminal bands of modern civilization, by czar and kaiser, who started out upon their vile work after attending divine service in their respective churches, invoking the blessing of Jesus of Nazareth upon their hellish designs.

Why?

What had the Poles done? What quarrel had they with anybody? "Busy as the devil is, not the slightest!"

Winter reigns on Poland's bleak fields. Lack of food and high prices and paucity of the means of transportation grow daily worse. Famine and disease are king and queen of this desolated realm.

In the colossal tempest of bloodshed and violence in Europe the corpse of Poland rises like the spectre of the most monstrous of human tragedies.



Gilbert K. Chesterton on Prussia's Failures

"Nothing could be more ridiculous, if that is all, than the moral position of the Prussians in Poland, where a magnificent officer, making a vast parade of "ruling," tries to cheat poor peasants out of their fields (and gets cheated) and then takes refuge in beating little boys for saying their prayers in their native tongue. All who remem-

ber anything of dignity, of irony, in short, of Rome and reason, can see why an officer need not, should not, had better not, and generally does not, beat little boys. But an officer can beat little boys; and a Prussian officer will go on doing it until you take away the stick."—G. K. Chesterton in the London Chronicle.



A PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE EASTERN TERRAIN OF WAR

A Forester's Home, in Debowina, Russian Poland, damaged by Kaiser's efficient Artillery.

Future Poland

HERE is not the least doubt that after crushing the German militarism Poland again will be free and independent. For the press and the statesmen of France, England and Russia persistently claim, that the present war is a war for a just cause, a war for the rights of weaker nations, over which the brutal hand of oppression has long heavily rested. All admit that the Poles who for nearly a century and a half of their unjust and unequalled bondage knew how to conserve their internal unity and national spirit and pride, who resolutely disdained to become Germanized or Russianized in spite of terrible threats and glorious promises, made to them by her oppressors, must sooner or later recover their freedom, the greatest gift, which they can bestow.

As often as in the world's politics before the present conflict the Polish question was presented, it always was spoken of in subdued tones and the thought of rebuilding Poland was considered a subject very distant, indeed and very dim, of which it was not worth the while to speak.

Things have changed since this present war broke out. Poland became an every day theme of the world's press. Politically Poland will not be omitted from the program of the future peace conference and there is no doubt to-day that after the supreme struggle is over, the sacred dreams of the fathers will be realized by the Poles.

This necessity was fully understood by Russia, who up to the present time stood as an executioner over that part of Poland, upon which she had laid violent hands and claimed as her part of the spoils; for being under the influence of German diplomacy, she systematically evaded everything that would remain her of the Poland of the past, even the very name. Knowing the necessity of resuscitating Poland as an autonomous country under the scepter of the czar, Russia through her chief commander Grand Duke Nicholas, issued the well known manifesto to the political world, in which she promises that "the sacred dreams of forefathers" will be realized. We cannot consider this manifesto as a worthless, not binding proclamation, for it was issued by the will of the Russian Emperor and through his official representatives has been communicated to the allied powers. Therefore, it represents a diplomatic act, a solemn pledge. It will be different, if this solving of the Polish question by the issued manifesto should not be sanctioned by the allied powers, who in place of autonomous Poland as it is promised by Duke Nicholas, may demand that Poland act as a buffer state enjoying herself freedom and independence, thus guaranteeing a lasting peace in Europe. Yet this matter belongs to the future peace conference.

For the present it ought to be interesting to us to know how large and how populous future Poland will be.

Should we take basis for our calculations the manifesto of Duke Nicholas, then we must accept as an axiom, that Poland will be rebuilt in her ethnographical boundaries of 1772, the year that preceded the first partition of Poland. For the manifesto reads:

"Century and a half has passed since the living body of Poland was cut to pieces, but her spirit did not die."

Century and a half corresponds with the year 1772, or the first partition of Poland. Further the same manifesto states: "Poland's people will unite again under the sceptre of the Czar"—it would mean that Russia intends to unite the dismembered parts of Poland under her scepter.

The conclusion of the manifesto reads: "Russia expects of you—meaning the Poles—nothing more than respect for those nations with whom natural history unites you." It is easy to surmise that Russia intends to unite with Poland those nations who by mutual agreement have been united with her since the XIV century, namely Ruthenia and Lithuania.

Here however, certain doubts may arise, as to whether Ruthenia and Lithuania, who in the past century have awakened towards national life, would care for such a union. It is not a secret to the Poles as well as to Russians that these nations also wanted independent existence. That the culture of Western Europe was brought to them by Poles, does not lead to anything, for gratitude plays no part in politics nor should the Poles count on receiving same. An alliance with these two nations which lasted for four centuries while Poland was independent, does not necessarily have to outlast nearly century and a half of thralldom, so much the more, since the Russians have had more influence over Lithuania than the Poles did, especially during the last fifty years. Suppose Poland should be free and independent and allied with Lithuania, in that case Poland as a power would stand:

Poland under Russia.	Area in kilometers.	population.
Poland	127,320	12,467,300
Lithuania, Ruthenia and Curland	498,618	25,794,300
Poland under Austria.		
Galicia and part of Hungary (Komitat Zips)	78,500 600	8,025,675 30,000
Poland under Germany.		
Province of Posen	28,992	2,099,931
West Prussia	24,039	1,614,766
Part of East Prussia	4,249	257,214
	762,318	50,289,086
	435,200 sq. miles.	

From above we see that Poland would be one of the most powerful nations of Europe. The above figures are taken from the census of 1910. This 50 million population of future Poland, according to the manifesto issued by the Grand Duke Nicholas would divide among the following nationalities:

Poles	22 million.
Ruthenians	12 "
White Ruthenians	6 "
Hebrews	5.5 "
Lithuanians	1.5 "
Germans	1 "
Russians	1 "
Others	1 "

The above figures show that Poland in that combination, compared with other countries as to nationality would be almost solid. Exceptions are the Russians and Germans who come from Poland, Russians as officials, Germans as colonists. The Hebrews are also an exception as they are ready to call themselves Poles tomorrow though today they are claiming themselves to be Russians. There remain the Ruthenians and Lithuanians, the greater majority of whom speak Polish. We could not forget that the Ruthenians are connected with Poles the same as a Saxon is connected with a Bavarian, Provence with French or Scotch

with English. At any rate they are more closely related to the Poles than to the Russians. On the other hand the Lithuanians and their language have nothing in common with the Slavs and stand as a separate nation. Mutual history brings the Lithuanians much closer to Poles than to Russians.

The Lithuanians as well as the Ruthenians received their civilization from the Poles with whom for centuries they were united. We could now accept the entire manifesto, yet there is one section of Poland of which the manifesto does not speak. That section is Silesia.

Silesia for over six centuries did not belong to Poland. It had its princes of Polish royalty (Piast) who in time became Germanized. Their example was followed by the nobility, clergy and the urban population. This process of Germanization after the reigning family became extinct helped Austria to get control of Silesia which later was ceded to Prussia. The common people could not be Germanized, they are Poles and the last 30 years has enlightened them in their national life to such an extent that at present speaking of Silesia we must speak of it as one of Poland's provinces.

The figures do not purpose to be exact according to statistics the province of Silesia which must be added to future Poland has an area of 20,000 kilom. and numbers 1,305,044 inhabitants.

Outside of this Austria possesses part of Silesia

known as Austrian Silesia but this province is also Polish with a population of 264,000. The area of Austrian Silesia is included in the Prussian Silesia.

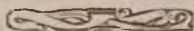
With all these lands Poland would cover an area of 782,318 km. and would number 51,858,130 inhabitants.

Even if Poland would give up the Ruthenian parts in order to form another independent country, it still would have a population numbering 39 to 40 million, that is Poland would be equal to either France, Italy or England.

Leaving aside the manifesto issued by the Grand Duke Nicholas and the cause of the present conflict, "that weaker nations shall not be oppressed", figures themselves show that rebuilding Poland in its ethnographical boundaries is a historical necessity, so much more that Poland as a nation is highly cultured and progressive, holding a very exalted place among the most civilized nations of the world. Today the sons of Poland are shedding their blood, being forced to take part in the fratricidal strife of the three contending armies. Still the nation looks to the future with hope-confident that after crushing German militarism due justice will be administered and Poland be made not only an autonomous country according to the Grand Duke's manifesto, but a free and independent Poland.

Bureau of the Polish National Alliance.

A. KARABASZ, Director.



Mr. Gallagher's Notable Speech in the House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, I am unalterably opposed to the legislation and have before on other occasions cast my vote against this bill. In doing so I have been prompted by the best of motives and the best of feeling for the best interests and the general welfare of my country and for the great body of people who are unable to plead here to-day for themselves. I come from the city of Chicago and the great West. The development of this part of our country and these States is the direct result of a policy that has been followed by our Government for over 125 or 130 years. We have grown and builded not by a policy of restriction, but by a policy of liberality and a policy of welcome for all who have come here to aid us. In my city are gathered representatives of most of the races coming from every section of the world; nearly every tongue is spoken; newspapers printed in most every foreign language are issued daily and weekly, and the effect of this has been for good and of great benefit; and in consequence of it we are solving the problems of the greater future of this country. The old theory of America for Americans I had hoped had long since passed away, and to-day new and more important issues were before us.

It has been stated on this floor that both parties

have in their platforms asserted the right of restriction of aliens. In reply to this I will only say that when the platform of my party is examined it will be found that the restrictions there mentioned were never intended to exclude those affected by the literacy test, but the dominant thought was to keep out the undesirables of Europe, and nothing more; and it is unjust to state, as has been stated here to-day, that the platforms of both parties are against the statements made by the President. All this is hardly true when you analyze the real object and intent. You gentlemen can not point to a single rostrum where an advocate stood representing either party submitting the issue as to the literacy test to the people as a part of his argument.

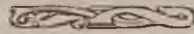
I am surprised at the woeful lack of knowledge that Members display here in regard to our foreign population by advocating this legislation. Do they know anything of those people? Have they ever lived among them to any extent? I do not think so.

I come from and live in a district that is made up entirely of foreigners. The Polish population in my district, the Italian population, the Jewish population exceed by far in numerical strength that of any single district in the

United States. My district is in the very heart of the great populous and enterprising city of Chicago. Upon this district in finance, industry, and conveniences these great and progressive peoples by their sterling qualities of manhood and womanhood have impressed their enterprising individually. And against these people, than whom no more moral of God-fearing people ever lived anywhere, we hear a lot of cheap talk, senseless tommyrot, which proves undeniably that those who declare these sentiments are grossly ignorant of the qualities of these peoples and convince the initiated that they positively do not know what they are talking about. (Laughter and applause.)

These people come here to better their condition, and they are positively doing it, and if you want any evidence of this fact come into my district and I will show you just as great churches, just as good schools, just as big banks, just as happy homes, and just as numerous, and just as prosperous people as you can find anywhere upon God's footstool. (Applause.)

The youth of that district crowd the schools and colleges, preparing for all the learned professions of law, medicine, dentistry, pedagogy, and devoting their best mental energies to the study of the arts and sciences.



Contributors to the Publication Fund of Free Poland

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Total	\$3,911.07

Relief Funds of the Polish War Sufferers Collected in the United States

By the Polish Central Relief Committee:

Previously acknowledged	\$ 12,000.00
"Tag Days" in Chicago.....	24,000.00
From other contributions.....	22,000.00
By the Polish National Council.....	34,700.00
By the Polish National Alliance.....	48,500.00

I see my friend from California (Mr. Raker) smiling sardonically over there, as he always does when the plain truth is distasteful to him. He referred to some steamboat companies or shipping interests on the Pacific coast, telling us about the crews they employed upon their boats, but he did not tell us anything about the people who unload those boats upon the docks, the poor people who are compelled to unload them upon the docks, who are striving hard to better their conditions, and who have an interest in this matter. (Applause.)

The President's veto message is a masterly document, showing a breadth of vision and a wealth of information of which he has been able to secure possession by reason of the facilities at his disposal to accumulate it. His reasoning is sound, his argument unanswerable, and his patriotism unimpeachable. He has spoken in this ringing appeal with a clearness and a force that will inevitably convince anyone whose mind is free from prejudice and whose spirit is not burdened with intolerance. He has spoken not for the present alone but for all time to come, blazing the way for future statesmen to build up a Nation here in our beloved America that is destined to become the most cosmopolitan, the most progressive, and the most prosperous that the sun, in all its course, has ever shone upon.

By the Polish Roman Catholic Union.....	4,000.00
By the Polish Women's Alliance.....	11,200.00
By the Polish Falcons' Alliance.....	12,500.00

Total\$168,900.00

By Other Committees:

American-Polish Relief Committee of New York	\$ 19,000.00
American-Polish Relief Committee of Boston..	16,500.00
Polish Relief Committee of Buffalo.....	8,200.00
Polish Red Cross, Pittsburg.....	2,500.00

Total\$ 46,200.00

Grand total 215,100.00

Checks may be sent to John F. Smulski, treasurer, Northwestern Trust & Savings Bank, 1201 Milwaukee Av., Chicago, Ill.

American Polish Relief Committee of New York

Madame Marcella Sembrich, President, 14 East 47th st., New York, N. Y.

List of subscriptions for Polish Relief Fund from January 28, 1915, to date:

As previously reported.....	\$17,949.52
Mr. G. M. Swift.....	10.00
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Total	\$18,775.77

Yours very truly,
MISS LEONIDA KRAJEWSKI,
Assistant Secretary.

Checks may be sent to treasurer: Guarantee Trust
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American Polish Relief Committee
of Boston, Mass.

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The committee of the fund for the Relief of the War
Sufferers in Poland, acknowledges receipt of the following
additional contributions:

Previously acknowledged	\$14,154.97
Miss Alice M. Sturgis.....	50.00

Mrs. R. C. Hopkins.....	5.00
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Miss Helenka Adamowska, collected through chain letter (add.).....	98.70

Total\$14,961.67

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NOTE The first number of FREE POLAND was published August 1st, 1914. Upon receipt of One Dollar (\$1.00)
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